

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 00266 081109Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 PC-01 /060 W

----- 081430

R 080940Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9082

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0266

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, SU, CD

SUBJ: INCREASING NUMBER OF EXPELLED CHADIANS FROM SUDAN

REF: A) KHARTOUM 129; B) NDJAMENA 248

1. MEDIUM LEVEL CHAD OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF FEB 5 THAT PROBLEM OF CHADIANS EXPELLED FROM SUDAN IS MORE SERIOUS THAN GOC IS WILLING TO ADMIT. HE SAID EXACT FIGURE OF NUMBERS OF RETURNEES IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE, BUT HE ESTIMATED IT TO BE IN THE SEVERAL THOUSANDS. MOST HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR PLACES OF ORIGIN IN CHAD (IN THE EAST AND NORTH FOR THE MOST PART), BUT THERE ARE AT LEAST 500 CURRENTLY IN NDJAMENA WHO ARE FROM THIS AREA OR FROM KANEM PROVINCE JUST TO NORTH OF NDJAMENA. HE SAID THAT RECENT ARTICLE IN INFOTCHAD (REF B) WAS PROMPTED BY THESE "REFUGEES" IN NDJAMENA AREA WHO ARE SEEKING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. GOC TO DATE HAS REFUSED RENDER ANY ASSISTANCE.

2. OFFICIAL NOTED THAT CHADIAN RETURNEES HAD BEEN RESIDENT BOTH IN BORDER AREAS OF SUDAN AND IN KHARTOUM. WHILE SOME WERE UNEMPLOYED OR SEASONAL WORKERS, OTHERS HAD BEEN WORKING OR SELF-
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NDJAME 00266 081109Z

EMPLOYED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. SEVERAL RETURNING CHADIANS HAD TOLD

OFFICIAL THAT ALL NON-SUDANI AFRICANS WHO HAD NOT BEEN RESIDING SUDAN FOR AT LEAST LAST 14 YEARS (POSSIBLY SINCE INDEPENDENCE) WERE VULNERABLE TO EXPULSION. OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT MOST RETURNEES ARE IN PARTICULARLY DIRE STRAITS BECAUSE THEY HAD TO LEAVE THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS BEHIND OWING TO ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES AND LACK OF TIME IN ARRANGING TRANSPORT.

3. SEVERAL RETURNEES ARE OF THE BELIEF THAT THE REASON FOR THEIRS EXPULSION IS PARTLY POLITICAL. SOME ADMITTED TO HAVING PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-GOS DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROTEST RISING PRICES, PARTICULARLY SUGAR AND COOKING OIL.

4. THE OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT THERE IS A CURRENT TENDENCY BY GOC OFFICIALS NOT TO ADMIT THAT A PROBLEM EXISTS, AND A BELIEF THAT THE RETURNEES WILL GRADUALLY BE ABSORBED INTO THE CHADIAN "BROUSSE." HE SAID THAT THE GOC CURRENTLY ENJOYS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH SUDAN PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF A COMMON DISTRUST OF LIBYA, AND WANTS TO DO NOTHING THAT MIGHT HARM THESE RELATIONS. THUS HE BELIEVES THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE GOC WILL PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM OR MAKE ANY FORMAL DEMARCHE TO SUDAN OVER THE EXPULSIONS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RATHER LARGE NUMBERS CAN BE ABSORBED IN THE VAST AREAS OF CHAD WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT HAVING TO TAKE ANY MEASURES TO HELP THEM. HOWEVER, MOST RETURNEES ARE MUSLIMS FROM THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES OF CHAD WHERE PROBLEMS IN FEEDING THE PRESENT POPULATION ARE ALREADY ACUTE AND WHERE REBEL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND BANDITRY IS HIGH. THIS CAN ONLY COMPLICATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE NDJAMENA-BASED GOVERNMENT AND THESE AREAS.
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